

ATTACHMENT 9

Response to Request for Documents #4

Annemarie Crocetti Documents

MARJOL OPERATION
OP UNIT: 00
FOLDER 9.001 - CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE
PA-0486
REMOVAL

MARJOL OPERATION
Section 9a - Congressional Correspon OP UNIT: 00
PA-0486

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The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

DRAFT

Dear Senator Specter:

I have received your letter of August 1, 1988, regarding Dr. Crocetti's assessment of the Marjol Battery Site, located in Throop, Pennsylvania. After reviewing the allegations that Dr. Crocetti has made, I certainly understand the urgency of your concern for the health of the citizens of Throop. However, let me assure you that there is no foundation to Dr. Crocetti's allegations and EPA is currently seeking an explanation from Dr. Crocetti regarding her statements. I will gladly comment on Dr. Crocetti's allegations in order to give you the assurances you need for the health of your constituency in Throop, Pennsylvania. Each of the major points will be addressed in the order in which they were raised by Dr. Crocetti.

In the second paragraph Dr. Crocetti states that "The Company agreed to pay for the cost EPA set for the term of the operation". While Dr. Crocetti is correct that this massive operation is being conducted without Superfund dollars, this statement indicates that Dr. Crocetti is not familiar with the Administrative Order she has criticized. No where in the Order is a cost figure set, indeed the Order is on a performance basis specifically excluding costs from consideration. In other words, Gould, Inc., the Respondent to the Order, must address the emergency regardless of the cost. Indeed, the estimated costs to Gould, Inc., for the project have already risen dramatically based on sample results which have shown the extent of contamination (not however, the levels of contamination) to be more wide spread than originally estimated. The group at EPA who negotiated the Order for EPA is the CERCLA Removal Enforcement Section and their actions in this matter, and all their efforts, save the expenditure of public funds.

Another point of contention is Dr. Crocetti's description of EPA's performance of the work. She states that EPA's first phase is to remove contaminated soil from the plant site. This is incorrect. As you were told during your site visit, EPA's priority is to remove significant levels of contamination in the residential areas. This misstatement is difficult to understand because Dr. Crocetti watched the soil removal proceeding at the residences in the neighborhood.

As for the risk to the workers and people in the area, Dr. Crocetti simply failed to examine the facts. At no time did she contact EPA, for any purpose, but most significantly she did not seek to review the air monitoring data files which show no significant air releases. Nor did she review site safety files which assure strict adherence to OSHA rules. After Dr. Crocetti's statements, EPA asked OSHA to inspect the operation. Although we have not received the OSHA report, we are confident that they found no major infractions of safety practices due to the diligence of our site safety monitoring. We also have asked Dr. Crocetti to review our air monitoring data which has already been sent to her. This analysis shows that atmospheric levels in the soil excavation area and in the surrounding neighborhood were better than the national ambient air quality standards. We will send Dr. Crocetti a copy of the OSHA report when it is available.

Contrary to her statements, extensive and effective dust control methods were in place during her visit, which she simply failed to observe. The air monitoring which has been ongoing since work began in April shows that these measures have been effective and were effective on the day of her visit. Most of our analyses show that lead levels are below detection limits. The EPA relies on analytical data, not casual observations. As a scientist, she should have sought this data before commenting on it. I can only hope that now she will set the record straight and relieve the anxiety her comments have caused the citizens of Throop and you. EPA is continuing to coordinate its efforts with the Centers for Disease Control, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and other interested parties to assess the effects of the Marjol Battery Site on children and adults of Throop. EPA's actions at Marjol will continue to be based on scientific data and the law.

Dr. Crocetti's points in Paragraphs 6 and 7 of her report are in error. For one week prior to excavation, e.g., 10 days prior to Dr. Crocetti's visit, fire hoses were used to wet down the soil. These hoses were also operational during Dr. Crocetti's visit even though 3.8 inches of rain fell on the area during the six days prior to her visit. In fact, nearly an inch of rain was recorded on the day before her visit. Air monitoring and adequate safety measures were and are being used. Dr. Crocetti's assumption that we are causing severe lead migration problems is simply not true, and our analytical data prove this. It is on the basis of her false assumptions that she made the recommendations that the

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work be stopped and the citizens be moved. We don't believe that stopping the work now is in the best interests of the people of Throop.

As for moving citizens from their homes, it has been EPA's stated position from the beginning that citizens, whose yards are being excavated, will be offered alternative living accommodations, if necessary. During such activities each home will be sealed as a precautionary measure. EPA believes that it would not be safe to have these citizens home while heavy equipment and construction activities are taking place in their yards, nor could EPA ask the operators of the equipment to work with young children playing in the area. The residents of the first five homes to be excavated, which will begin within a week, have been offered such assistance. Furthermore, Gould, Inc., and EPA are planning measures to provide security for these homes during the owner's absence.

Dr. Crocetti also raises the question of cleaning inside homes, and once again she mistakes the intent of the Order and EPA's position. The Order calls for a cleanup of significant levels of off-site contamination and is not otherwise limited except that the contamination must be from the Marjol site. Interior house dust samples have been taken. When these results are available, EPA will again seek the guidance of CDC and ATSDR. At that time, decisions on the necessity for clean-up will be made, but these decisions cannot be made before health experts have the opportunity to review the data.

As for the authority to halt the work at the Site which Dr. Crocetti states EPA does not have, Dr. Crocetti has again failed to consult the Order. EPA does have this authority which is clearly stated in the Order. Authority to halt the work is held by EPA's Project Coordinator, Bill Steuteville. I assure you that EPA and Bill clearly understand and respect the authority we are given.

As for Dr. Crocetti's last 3 recommendations, EPA has always been willing to work with and discuss the Site with any responsible parties. EPA understands that the medical

DRAFT

study which was undertaken by the Responsible Party, federal, state, and local health officials will continue. Lastly, the CDC has been involved at the Marjol Site and will continue to be consulted in all health related matters.

The potential health and environmental problems posed by the Marjol Site are considered to be serious and they are therefore receiving the full attention and best efforts of scores of professionals. These professionals not only represent Federal and State agencies, but include personnel from Gould, Inc., the site owners, and their contractors who are performing outstanding work under difficult circumstances.

I assure you that the critical problems at the the Marjol Site will continue to receive my attention and the direct attention of James Seif, EPA's Region III Administrator. Jim's personal response to Dr. Crocetti is also enclosed. EPA shares with you a great concern for the health of the citizens of Throop.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Lee M. Thomas
Administrator

DRAFT





Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

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AUG 17 1988

AUG 22 1988

EPA REGION III
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

Thank you for your letter of August 1 on behalf of Dr. Annemarie Crocetti expressing concerns for the health of residents in Throop, Pennsylvania, living near the Marjol Battery site.

As you requested, we have reviewed Dr. Crocetti's comments and the information available in our files on past, present, and planned actions by several Federal and State agencies involved at the Marjol site. We do not concur with Dr. Crocetti's statement that "The situation constitutes a public health crisis of major proportions. . . ." We believe the issues raised by Dr. Crocetti either have been, are, or will be addressed by the agencies involved in the environmental and public health issues related to the soil lead contamination at Marjol.

The principal agencies involved at this site are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). These agencies work very closely with one another to ensure protection of the environment and public health.

In 1980, a childhood lead survey in the area around the Marjol Battery site was conducted and did not reveal any unusual elevation of blood lead levels. On-site soils contained very high levels of lead; CDC recommended restriction of the site until it could be remediated.

This area of Pennsylvania has had a childhood lead screening program for some years, and the medical community is well aware of the problem of childhood lead toxicity. The lead laboratory at the Kirby Medical Center is one of the better lead laboratories in the United States.

The ATSDR became involved at the Marjol site in May 1987 when we performed a health consultation at the request of EPA. Subsequently, other consultations have been performed by the Agency in response to requests from EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. These ATSDR health consultations concluded that the level of lead in soils

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constitutes a potential health hazard to area residents. Among the recommendations made by ATSDR were the collection of additional environmental samples to characterize the off-site migration of lead; the establishment of erosion control measures to prevent further off-site migration into residential areas; and the recommendation to restrict human access to soil with lead levels in excess of 1,000 parts per million (ppm). These consultations were considered by EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Health in developing their plans for environmental and public health actions.

In her letter to you, Dr. Crocetti expressed concern about the adequacy of the work plan and site safety plan for the EPA remediation work at the Marjol site. The EPA has the statutory and regulatory authority to conduct site remedial work and other risk management activities related to hazardous waste sites. A specific response to Dr. Crocetti's concerns on the EPA remediation is more appropriately handled by the EPA Region III Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. We have discussed Dr. Crocetti's concerns with both EPA and State health and environmental agencies. The EPA is providing ATSDR with copies of the work plan referenced in Dr. Crocetti's letter, the site safety plan, and the most recent on-site and off-site environmental sampling information. We anticipate receiving this information in the very near future. We will prepare a written assessment of the potential public health impact of the Marjol Battery site, including our recommendations for further public health followup, should this be indicated. A copy of this Health Assessment will be sent to you as soon as it is completed.

We do not believe it is necessary to evacuate the population during the cleanup, provided appropriate dust control measures are taken. The ATSDR has discussed with EPA the need for the contractor to follow scrupulously the worker protection plan for wearing masks, protective clothing, showering, washing hair, etc. The EPA has assured us that these measures are being followed.

Dr. Crocetti also recommended that further health studies should be performed, and that environmental sampling (dust) be performed inside area homes. Our Health Assessment, mentioned in the preceding paragraph, will address her recommendations regarding these issues. For your information, during the week of July 11 the Pennsylvania Department of Health conducted a blood lead screening survey in the community. Although we have not yet received the written reports from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, we continue to work very closely with them and know that, of the 319 children tested, 1 child had a blood lead level exceeding 25 micrograms per deciliter, and 6 had levels between 15-24 micrograms per deciliter. Household dust samples were collected from 25 homes at the same time as the blood lead survey. Of the 25 homes tested, 23 were above 500 ppm of lead. These findings are consistent

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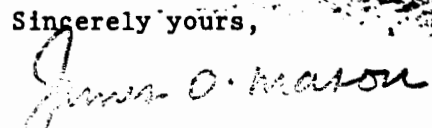
Page 3 - The Honorable Arlen Specter

with previous results from the childhood lead screening programs conducted in the past in this area of Pennsylvania. Most homes built before 1950 contain large amounts of lead paint. The dust lead levels in older homes may be related to lead paint and not soil lead. The houses with the five highest lead levels have been resampled, and the health department expects these results back in the next few weeks. If you have further questions regarding the health studies recently conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, please contact Drs. James Fox or James Logue at the health department (717/787-1708).

In summary, CDC and ATSDR have been and will continue to work closely with the other appropriate Federal and State agencies responsible for protecting the environment and public health at the Marjol site.

Again, thank you for your letter and your interest in protecting the health of the community. If you have further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,


James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Assistant Surgeon General
Administrator

cc:
Pennsylvania Department of Health
EPA/OSWER
/EPA Region III

AR203550

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 1, 1988

Dr. James Mason
Director
Centers for Disease Control
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Dear Dr. Mason:

I am writing regarding a report recently provided to me on the potentially serious situation surrounding the cleanup operation at the Marjol Battery & Equipment Company site in Throop, Pennsylvania. The report was prepared by Dr. Annemarie F. Crocetti, who is considered a leading expert on lead control and contamination and was invited by the local citizens group, Halt Environmental Lead Pollution (HELP), to study the situation.

Dr. Crocetti recently studied the cleanup operations currently underway at the site, and based on her observations, stated that "the situation constitutes a public health crisis of major proportions." The Crocetti Report reviews in detail the three-phase cleanup plan agreed to by the EPA and raises a number of serious concerns regarding implementation of this plan. For example, the report states that dust control is not adequately addressed. In addition, there is no plan to monitor lead absorption levels which may result in a "sharp dangerous increase in blood lead levels" in children living in the area. The report also indicates that the workers themselves may be in jeopardy from potentially harmful and dangerous working conditions.

Dr. Crocetti is particularly distressed by the fact that the local residents have not yet been moved out of the area nor does a plan exist to remove residents and seal their houses during the cleanup process. The report concludes that "this inadequate plan is an urgent problem, indeed, to say nothing of the risk to workers, their families and especially to the children." Dr. Crocetti recommends an immediate cessation of the cleanup and a formulation of new plans to ensure the safety of the area residents during the cleanup process. Enclosed is a copy of the report.

In light of these findings, I request you review the report and accord it your immediate and full attention. Furthermore, I request

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Dr. James Mason
August 1, 1988
Page 2

that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) take all appropriate action in light of this report to ensure the health and safety of local residents. I also would appreciate receiving from CDC its assessment of the report and a complete analysis of any potential lead contamination which may threaten the community.

Thank you for your personal attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/mr
Enclosure

AR203552

ANNEMARIE F. CROCETTI, Dr.P.H.
31 Union Square West
Apt.11-A
New York, New York 10003
(212)675-7291

July 29, 1988

THE HONORABLE ARLEN SPECTER
225 N. Washington Avenue
Scranton, PA. 18503

Dear Senator Specter:

Following yesterday's telephone conversation with Mr. Wallace of your staff, I am very pleased to give you my observations on the clean-up operations now underway at the Marjol Battery & Equipment Company site in Throop, PA.

The situation constitutes a public health crisis of major proportions, and in the most urgent terms, I wish to call for your immediate intervention in this situation.

As you know, the site of a former lead battery plant now contains a large dump of the lead battery residue and scrap. Testings have found that the soil of the site, as well as the soil of the surrounding residential area is highly contaminated. A clean-up operation clearly was imperative. The Company has entered an agreement for such a clean-up with the regional E.P.A. in Philadelphia, with "Superfund" personnel. The Company agreed to pay for the cost the EPA set for the term of the operation.

The plan agreed on consists of 3 phases. The first phase is now underway and consists of removal of contaminated soil from the plant site. A bulldozer and truck are involved in moving this soil to a temporary storage spot on the location. Though, of course, such necessary activity is well known from similar abatement experiences do post very real and serious risks, not only for the men actually doing the job, but for all persons in the area and in the path of the contaminated dust resulting from the operation.

For safe and effective soil removal, it is vital that the dust level be kept down as much as possible so that inhalation and re-distribution of the lead particles is avoided. A significant characteristic of lead polluted dust is that it is difficult to remove from clothing and the inside of dwellings, particularly rugs and upholstered furniture and normal laundering and cleaning has been shown to be inadequate. Experts agree that residents must be moved out and that houses must be sealed up during the operation. A day should elapse before opening up the houses and they should then undergo special cleaning operations before the residents

AR203553

are to be permitted to return. During the first month or so after their return, the children must be monitored to prevent lead absorption via any remaining dust. The literature contains the reports documenting that if such a procedure is not followed, the children will experience a sharp and dangerous increase in blood lead levels.

For the protection of the workers, they should wear goggles and masks. The soil and equipment in the area should be wetted down. They must have facilities to shower and change their clothing, including their shoes, before leaving the site. Their cars must be parked out of the pathway of the dust. This is essential since research has shown that otherwise, such workers constitute a high health risk to themselves and their families through transporting of the lead.

At present, the working conditions appear to lack the stringent enforcement of and adherence to these conditions. I saw goggles, but no masks whatsoever. The wetting down appears inadequate. The necessary air monitoring was not apparent. Inquiries had already shown that arrangements for speedy analysis of air monitoring "catch" had not been arranged. Consequently, the result of analysis seems not available when most needed. The arrangements for showering, changing and parking cars also appeared inadequate.

Most distressing is the fact that the residents have not been moved out, nor have the houses been sealed up. Arrangements for special house clean ups have not been made. They are not even part of the agreement. Worse, no plan exists for monitoring the children after the clean-up operation.

Instead, the residents have been instructed to keep the children indoors and all windows closed. I leave it to your imagination what it is like to have small children indoors 24 hours a day with the windows closed and no air conditioning, not to mention that dust is, of course, tracked into the house when adults return from work, shopping, etc. The residents had asked that the work not be done during the summer vacation time, but the local contractor wished to do the work now.

The second phase of the current EPA plan concerns the removal of soil from residences where the contamination is particularly severe. The number of these houses has not yet been determined. There are no plans to remove residents and seal the houses. There are no plans to monitor the children after their return and no plans for special cleaning and potential replacement of rugs, upholstered furniture, etc., which may prove to be uncleanable.

The third phase concerns soil removal where levels are relatively

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lower. The number of residents involved has not yet been determined. This phase does not involve the removal of residents, sealing of houses, follow-up cleaning, etc. or child monitoring.

Taken as a whole, the plan is entirely inadequate and ignores all experiences about safe lead abatement, and I say this based on conversations with experts in the last few days, before and after my trip to Throop.

The plan clearly shows that no attention has been paid to the pre-existing long term health crisis in the community. Blood tests and clinical experience show that children in this community, carry unacceptable levels of lead in their blood and bodies. Any further increases will be appalling and dangerous. Increases can and will occur under the present plan, and worse, the increases will occur immediately upon exposure. Therefore, this inadequate plan is an urgent problem, indeed, to say nothing of the risk to workers, their families and especially to the children.

The personnel present at the site is, I believe, completely inexperienced with the special requirements when facing lead contamination with adjoining residences. The medical community is not particularly expert in the field of lead poisoning, and therefore, cannot provide the necessary leadership.

AMA
4.
I am certain that the current operation should be stopped at once, and new plans be formulated and renegotiated with the company. The personnel on the site, I believe are not in a position to stop the work at once. Your intervention and help is undoubtedly required to intervene effectively and promptly.

I suggest that the following be considered when reformulating the clean-up operation:

1. A Committee of experts to be constituted and utilized in the reformulation, so that the medical and public health aspects are given proper consideration. I have, for my own interest, already been in communication with several of them and know they would be available;
2. There is an absolute need to organize proper medical evaluations of the affected child population. This includes examinations before the operation starts (retrospective study) and long-term follow up (prospective study). Potentially, 400 children are involved, there are no local medical experts to conduct such work;

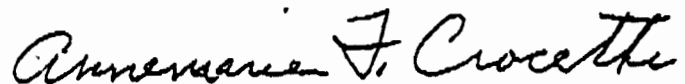
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HONORABLE ARLEN SPECTER
July 29, 1988
Page 4

3. The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, have such special experience and should be involved immediately. Normal channels for requesting C.D.C. involvement appear not available in this situation (local health dept. → state health dept. → C.D.C.). Since they appear inadequately knowledgeable in the field of lead poisoning, they seem, now and in the past, reluctant to face the nature and the existing crisis. You would be able to short circuit the normal "Chain of Command" and request C.D.C.'s participation directly. You are in a position to assist in freeing up available state and local funding for the requested work from the relevant health departments.

In summary, it seems to me that the current crisis is due to a failure on all parts to deal with the specific medical nature of the problem which is the very essence of it. The community has been bearing an intolerable, irreversible burden for years as it is (children with mental retardation, etc., etc., etc.) There is an immediate acute danger that this burden will increase due to the very efforts of improving the situation.

Sincerely yours,



ANNEMARIE F. CROCETTI, Dr.P.H.

P.S. I am sending a list of references relevant to the judgments I have made in this letter as soon as possible. In the meantime, I refer to a relevant document mandated by Congress and released last week. I am co-author of this report:
The Nature and Extent of Lead Poisoning in Children in the U.S.,
A Report to Congress,
Issued by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Atlanta, Georgia.
I also refer you to the October, 1987, issue of "Child Health Alert" published by the PA. WICK program.

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MARJOL OPERATION

OP UNIT: 00

FOLDER 10.002 - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

PA-0486

REMOVAL

MARJOL OPERATION

Section 10d - Newspaper Articles

PA-0486

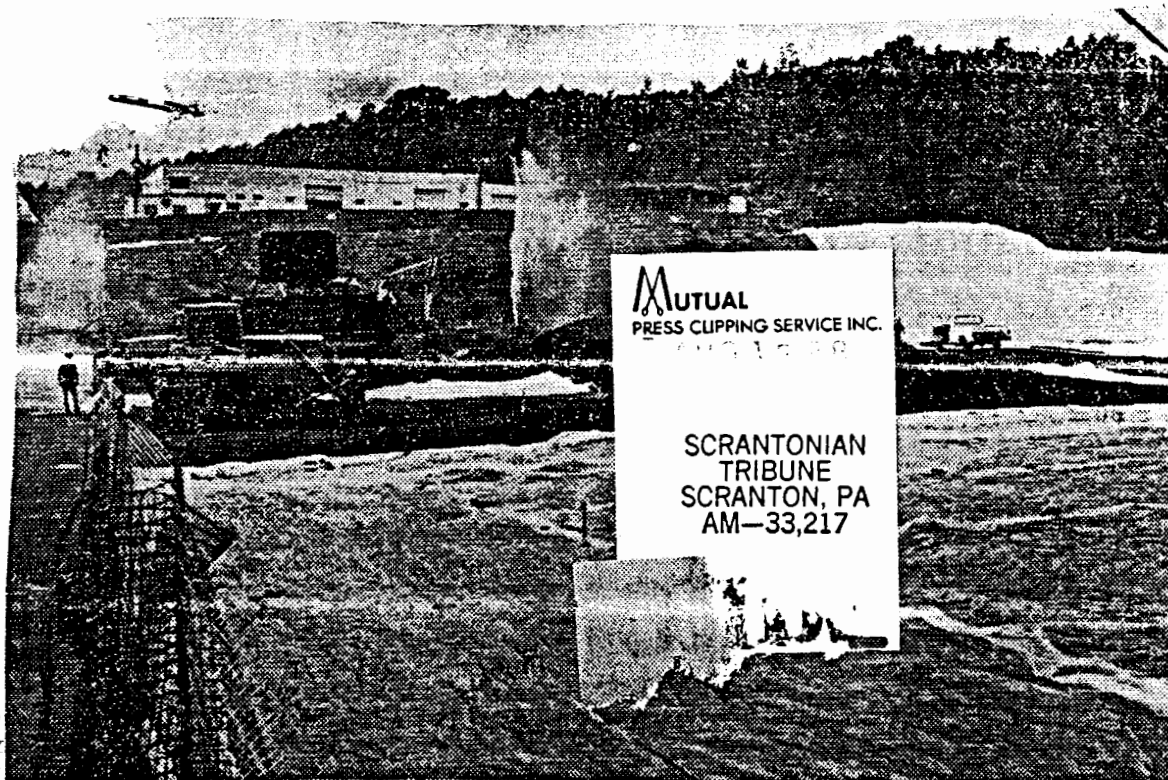
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MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE INC.

SCRANTONIAN
TRIBUNE
SCRANTON, PA
AM-33,217

Scrantonian Tribune—JERRY PIFER

THE BIG CLEANUP—Workers continue land excavation cleanup operations of lead in Throop. In the background is the former Marjol Battery Co. plant.

Wants proper lead cleanup

SCRANTON — A consultant for the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who disagrees with the agency's lead cleanup of Throop received words of praise Friday from U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter.

In an unusual twist, lead expert Dr. Annemarie Crocetti of New York City, has criticized the EPA — the agency that retains her as a consultant — and charged that the EPA's cleanup of Throop is faulty.

The EPA fired back, at Crocetti and said cleanup work was progressing properly with necessary safety precautions.

Crocetti, after visiting Throop at the request of Throop residents two weeks ago, had written a report to Specter in which she took issue with cleanup operations and said more safeguards were needed for residents and cleanup workers.

The senator said the doctor's report had a positive effect in that "it put everyone on top of their tippy toes."

Specter was asked if he was taking sides in the war of words between EPA officials and Crocetti, and he responded that he naturally was on the side of the residents of Throop. Many Throop residents have lauded Crocetti for her report on lead in that community.

Specter said the lead problem in Throop was of constant concern to him.

"This is a unique situation," Specter said. "Millions of batteries are buried there (at the former Marjol Battery Co. landfill). It's scary to have all that lead buried there."

Specter said the Crocetti report "was very helpful" and he was looking for Crocetti to reply to the statement that came from the EPA this week.

As a result of Crocetti's report, Specter said, the EPA changed a number of cleanup procedures that Crocetti had taken issue with.

Crocetti complained that there was too much dust floating in Throop neighborhoods, and that the land that's being excavated should have been wetted down.

Crocetti, a doctor of public health, came to Throop at the request of residents there to offer her help. She is the co-author of a lengthy Report to Congress on Lead Poisoning in Children in the United States. The report was sent to Congress last month.

Crocetti also is a consultant on heavy metals for the EPA's Environmental Criteria and Assessment Office, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Looking to resolve the dispute between Crocetti and EPA officials, Specter said the federal government may have to bring in more experts to offer their analysis of the situation.

Many Throop residents are siding with Crocetti and are unhappy with a statement from the EPA saying that it's been the EPA's position from the beginning that citizens whose yards are being excavated will be offered alternative living accommodations if necessary.

Members of a Throop citizens' group charge that this "alternative living" plan only came about recently and that in the past EPA officials never talked about re-location for some residents.

In a related development, a group called Concerned Citizens of Lackawanna County has been distributing leaflets urging people to attend

(Please turn to Page 7)

THE MORNING TIMES
SCRANTON, PA
AM-24,000

Sen. Specter visits area farm

By Frank Scholz

TIMES STAFF WRITER

U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter visited a Benton Twp. farm on Friday to assess first hand the damage caused by this year's drought and talk with area farmers about a \$3.9 billion drought relief bill signed earlier this week by President Reagan.

Before departing, the senator also had a few words to say about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's latest statement on the cleanup of lead at the former Marjol Battery Plant in Throop, former Gov. Dick Thornburgh's swearing in as Attorney General of the United States and his choice for the GOP vice presidential nomination.

The farmers who met with the senator seemed most pleased with provisions of the drought relief bill designed to raise the price of milk to

help offset the anticipated higher price of feed caused by the lack of rain this summer.

The bill also would make federal assistance available to farmers who can prove crop losses of 35 percent or more.

Dan Naylor, who with his father, Robert, hosted the senator, said, "We were blessed. We planted earlier that some and have got a decent crop."

Still the Naylor will not get what they expected from their forages.

Second-cutting hay has suffered the most, Dan Naylor said.

"First-cutting, we got about 90 percent of normal, but our second cutting is only 15 percent normal."

And while their corn may look good, Bob Naylor told the senator, "The stand (stalk) is probably only 50 percent of what it should be."

Bob's other son, Dick, who farms in Springville, Susquehanna County,

told Specter his corn is about only half the size of the corn on his father's farm.

"I won't get one-third of a crop," he said.

While at least one farmer said his crops were close to normal, most said they will be forced to purchase more grain to feed their cattle this winter than they normally would.

Mark Darling, who owns a farm approximately five miles from the Naylor, said he will be particularly hard hit because he purchases most of his grain anyway.

Grain prices, he told Specter, have risen in the past few months from \$157 a ton to \$210 a ton.

Despite the bleak reports, Specter said he did not feel farmers in Northeastern Pennsylvania have been hit as hard by the drought as farmers in central and western Pennsylvania.

"Corn on farms I have visited

to view drought effects

there," he said, "is only half the size of corn I see here."

In the months ahead, he added, he plans to keep a close watch on the drought relief bill in an attempt to determine its effectiveness.

While he seemed to enjoy himself, the senator admitted that he would have been at the White House for former Gov. Thornburgh's swearing in as Attorney General.

Specter predicted Thornburgh "will be good for America. The Justice Department urgently needs someone to do a top-notch job and I think he will," he said.

Switching to lead contamination at the former Marjol Battery plant in Throop, Specter said he remains "concerned" about the problem, but thinks that the debate about the cleanup is healthy.

"It's sound to have questions raised," he said.

And while EPA on Thursday was

critical of a report noted lead expert Dr. Annemarie Crocetti prepared for him, the senator said he wants to see her reply before assessing the situation.

"Crocetti's report," he said, "put everybody on their tippy-tippy toes," and while he was not prepared at this time to go along with her recommendation for a team of experts to be called in to oversee the operation, he made it clear that this was one of the options he was considering.

He also indicated that he intends to look at the expertise EPA has in the field of lead poisoning.

"I want to see," he said, "how much expertise EPA has in this area."

He did not, however, say how he intends to go about this, reiterating instead his desire to see what Dr. Crocetti's response to EPA's criticisms will be.

The senator did not hesitate when asked who he thinks George Bush should select as his running mate once he officially receives the GOP presidential nomination in New Orleans next week.

"Sen. Robert Dole. He has the experience and maturity for the job. He also has paid his dues," he said, noting that Dole has campaigned for the presidential nomination.

Specter said he traveled with Bush on Tuesday and made his views known to him then. In fact, he said, of the five people who were with the nominee that day all but one said they felt he should pick Dole as his running mate.

The senator went on to say that he felt Dukakis' record as governor of Massachusetts can be exploited by the Republicans during the presidential campaign, but said he urged Bush to leave that to his running mate.

EPA officials blast cleanup criticism

By Lynne Slack

MIDVALLEY BUREAU

THROOP — Environmental Protection Agency officials have blasted criticism of the Marjol Battery site cleanup made by noted lead expert Dr. Annemarie Crocetti.

Crocetti termed the criticism "nit-picking," and said it fails to address her main concern, which is the health and safety of both nearby residents and workers removing contaminated soil.

"The basic criticism is not details of engineering," she said. "The concern I have is that the whole operation is being run without public health preventive measures. They are doing this as if there were no people."

Crocetti, co-author of the report to Congress titled "Lead Poisoning in Children in the U.S.," was in Throop July 27 and 28 to speak with residents on effects from the lead problem caused by storage of battery casings at Marjol.

The EPA criticism stemmed from a letter Crocetti wrote to U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter at his request after observing the situation in Throop.

In the letter, Crocetti noted workers were not adequately protected, soil was not adequately wetted down to prevent dust, and air monitoring of lead was not apparent. She also stated residents had not been re-

moved from their homes, and provisions had not been made for the interior cleanup of homes.

She concluded that the operation should be stopped immediately until new plans had been formulated to address those and other issues, such as monitoring of children's blood lead levels.

Both Lee M. Thomas, the administrator of the EPA, and James M. Seif, regional administrator for the EPA, responded to Crocetti's comments to Specter.

Major points of the responses were:

- Air quality of the site is being monitored and has shown no significant release of lead.

- Protection for workers is being taken based on the air monitoring and in strict adherence to OSHA regulations.

- Fire hoses were used to wet down the site beginning a week before excavation. The fact that dust was not releasing contaminates into the air was backed up by the air monitoring.

- Provisions have been made to seal residential homes and to relocate residents if necessary. Interior cleanup of the homes would be considered once results from dust samples have been received.

Those levels were released this week. Nine of the 25 homes had levels between 500 and 1,000 parts

►See EPA, Page A-7

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EPA blasts criticism

(Continued from Page A-1)

per million, and 12 had levels over 1,000. Levels over 500 are considered a health threat. State officials have recommended an interior cleanup, but the EPA has not yet released a decision on the matter.

- Stopping work would not address the emergency or be in the best interests of Throop residents.

Crocetti said the day she arrived in Throop she questioned several aspects of the work site.

"Every one of those criticisms

of Marjol cleanup

were immediately remedied," she said. "Additional air monitoring was installed. Latex gloves were on the men which were not there before."

On the issue of wetting down the soil, Crocetti maintains that garden hoses, and not fire hoses, were being used the first day of her visit.

Crocetti said the letter to Specter was dictated the evening of her second day in Throop and written the next. She said there was no time to request and review the air monitoring data during the interview. Cro-

"Because I felt the public had a right to be informed of the opinion of one of the leading lead experts in the world," she said.

Crocetti said her main contention is that work should be stopped while a medical protocol for the project is put into place.

"Because what they're doing ultimately increases the potential danger and the point is to remove the danger," she said. "Stoppage and the start of proper protocol would take two weeks."

SCRANTONIAN
TRIBUNE
SCRANTON, PA
610-332,217

EPA answers Marjol critic

By Pete Grady

SCRANTONIAN TRIBUNE WRITER

CLARKS GREEN — The Environmental Protection Agency is looking at the lead contamination in Throop "purely as an engineering problem and not as a public health problem," a nationwide lead contamination expert said Thursday in answer to two blistering attacks on her professional credibility by EPA

officials.

Dr. Annemarie Crocetti, New York City, defended her call for halting EPA's clean-up plans at an area surrounding the former Gould Battery plant in Throop. She said the clean-up operation is being done without any regard for taking necessary public health preventative measures for EPA workers, affected residents and their children.

She said her sense of urgency for the health of the children living near the contaminated site is "not being considered," and that the population has been exposed for more than 20 years to high lead levels.

One of the two EPA letters attacking her position was a letter written to Dr. Crocetti on Aug. 5 from EPA regional administrator James Seif. The other letter from

EPA official Lee Thomas was addressed to Sen. Arlen Specter.

Seif took strong exception to Dr. Crocetti's letter to Sen. Specter in which she characterized EPA's clean-up actions as "a public health crisis of major proportions" and "inadequate."

Seif said air monitoring results for dust revealed lead concentra-

(Please turn to Page 5)

EPA

(Continued from Page One)

tions of 6,000 mg. "These were taken during the soil excavations which took place during your visit. These levels are below the detectable level. This office does not have ambient air lead levels for New York City on that day, but I venture to guess that had you been in Manhattan, you would have received a higher level of exposure to lead."

Dr. Crocetti said air lead levels just released indicated 2,000 parts per million of lead.

"As for halting the work," Seif said, "I fail to see how that will address the sense of emergency you feel. Do you recommend that no work be done?"

In response to her charge that the EPA is not protecting the health of the on-site workers, Seif replied that the site was being monitored daily. Air monitoring has been conducted since April. Analysis of air data has shown no significant release of contaminants due to work in progress.

In his letter to Sen. Specter, Thomas stated: "As for the risk to the workers and people in the area, Dr. Crocetti simply failed to examine the facts. At no time did she contact EPA, for any purpose, but most significantly, she did not seek to review the air monitoring data files which show no significant air releases."

"Contrary to her statements, extensive and effective dust control methods were in place during her visit, which she simply failed to observe."

"As for moving citizens from their homes, it has been EPA's stated position from the begin-

ning that citizens whose yards are being excavated will be offered alternative living accommodations, if necessary. During such activities, each home will be sealed as a precautionary measure. EPA believes it would not be safe to have these citizens home while heavy equipment and construction activities are taking place in their yards, nor could EPA ask the operators of the equipment to work with young children playing in the area. The residents of the first five homes to be evacuated which will begin within a week have been offered such assistance."

"The potential health and environmental problems posed by the Marjol site are considered to be serious and they

are therefore receiving the full attention and best efforts of scores of professionals."

Dr. Crocetti made her remarks in the Clarks Green office of Atty. Diane Beemer who represents a Throop citizens' group.

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'Senator appeals to EPA on Marjol

By Frank Scholz
TIMES STAFF WRITER

In separate letters, U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter on Monday asked the top administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to "personally intervene" in the cleanup of the former Marjol battery plant in Throop and for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., to take all appropriate action to "ensure the health and safety of local residents."

Specter issued the letters in response to a report he received from Dr. Annemarie Crocetti, an expert on lead poisoning who visited Throop last week to meet with residents and view firsthand the cleanup of lead-contaminated soils around the former Marjol battery site.

In her report, Crocetti criticized the cleanup operations currently under way and called for their immediate cessation, while new plans are formulated.

She also called for:

- A committee of experts to be brought in to help reformulate the cleanup effort.

- Proper medical evaluations of the affected children.

- Involvement by the Centers for Disease Control.

As she did during her visit to Throop, Dr. Crocetti described the cleanup as a "public health crisis of major proportions."

"I am certain that the current operation should be stopped at once," she wrote Specter, "and new plans be formulated and renegotiated with the company."

Earlier in the report, Dr. Crocetti said, "In the most urgent terms, I wish to call for your immediate intervention in this situation."

Specter forwarded Dr. Crocetti's

report to Lee Thomas, administrator of the EPA, and Dr. James Mason, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control.

In addition to his personal intervention in the cleanup, Specter asked Thomas for a review of the points raised in Dr. Crocetti's report as well as a status report on the cleanup operations in light of the report's findings.

The senator asked Dr. Mason to give the report his "immediate and full attention" and in light of its findings to direct the CDC to take whatever action is necessary to ensure the health and safety of local residents.

"I also would appreciate receiving from CDC its assessment of the report and a complete analysis of any potential lead contamination which may threaten the community," he said.

Although Specter did not request any action by either the EPA or CDC, Crocetti made much of the fact that residents in the area of the former battery plant have not been evacuated while the cleanup is under way.

"Most distressing," she wrote, "is the fact that the residents have not been moved out, nor have the houses been sealed up."

She went on to note that no arrangements for special house cleanups have been made.

"They are not even part of the agreement," she said. "Worse, no plan exists for monitoring the children after the cleanup operation."

"For the protection of the workers," she wrote, "they should wear goggles and masks. The soil and equipment in the area should be wetted down. They must have facilities to shower and change their clothing, including their shoes, before leaving the site."

THE SCRANTON TIMES
SCRANTON, PA
Pm-56,500

Specter Asks EPA Head To Intervene In Cleanup of Throop Contamination

U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter has asked the head of the federal Environmental Protection Agency to "personally intervene" in the cleanup of the former Marjol battery plant in Throop.

At the same time, the Republican lawmaker urged the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., to take all appropriate action to "ensure the health and safety of local residents."

Specter made the requests in letters written Monday in response to a report he received from Dr. Anne-marie Crocetti, an expert on lead poisoning who visited Throop last week to meet with residents and view firsthand the cleanup of lead-contaminated soils around the former Marjol battery site.

In her report, Crocetti criticized the cleanup operations currently

under way and called for their immediate cessation, while new plans are formulated.

She also called for a committee of experts to be brought in to help reformulate the cleanup effort, proper medical evaluations of the affected children and involvement by the Centers for Disease Control.

Dr. Crocetti described the cleanup as a "public health crisis of major proportions."

"I am certain that the current operation should be stopped at once," she wrote Specter, "and new plans be formulated and renegotiated with the company."

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any action by either the EPA or CDC, Dr. Crocetti made much of the fact that residents in the area of the former battery plant have not been evacuated while the cleanup is under way.

"Most distressing," she wrote, "is the fact that the residents have not been moved out, nor have the houses been sealed up."

She added that no arrangements for special house cleanups have been made.

"They are not even part of the agreement," she said. "Worse, no plan exists for monitoring the children after the cleanup operation."

Taken as a whole, Dr. Crocetti said, the cleanup plan is "entirely inadequate and ignores all experiences about safe lead abatement."

SCRANTONIAN
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SCRANTON, PA
AM-33,217

Specter moves on Marjol report

By Matt Schwartz

SCRANTONIAN TRIBUNE WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Arlen Specter has requested an immediate review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control of a report by a national expert on lead poison, who was critical of the Marjol Battery plant clean-up under way in Throop.

In letters written to EPA administrator Lee Thomas and CDC Director James Mason, Specter asks both men to "review the report and accord it your immediate and full attention."

The report was written by Annemarie Crocetti, of New York City, a national expert on lead con-

tamination. Crocetti visited Throop last week at the request of a local citizens group, Halt Environmental Lead Pollution (HELP).

While in town, and later in a letter to Specter dated Friday, she criticized the clean-up, which is being overseen by the EPA.

Specifically, Crocetti complained that the removal of contaminated soil from the site of the former Marjol Battery Co. plant was stirring up lead-tainted dust that could be tracked into homes or breathed in by workers and area residents.

"For safe and effective soil removal, it is vital that the dust level be kept down as much as possible so that inhalation and redistribution of the lead particles (are) avoided," she wrote to

Specter. "Experts agree that residents must be moved out and that houses must be sealed up during the operation."

Throop residents have not been moved out of their homes during the first phase of the clean-up.

In a handwritten note at the end of the letter, Specter advised Thomas that "This report by Dr. Crocetti raises issues which must be addressed with a prompt reply because there is substantial public concern."

The senator also asked that Thomas and the CDC review Crocetti's report and comment on the points she raised.

The letter to Thomas was hand-delivered to his Washington, D.C., office. The note to Mason was sent via overnight express mail.



Sen. Arlen Specter

SCRANTONIAN
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AM-33,217

Report: Lead cleanup operation 'inadequate'

By Robert Curran

SCRANTONIAN TRIBUNE WRITER

THROOP — An emergency report sent to U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter Saturday on lead contamination in Throop describes the situation as "a public health crisis of major proportions."

The report calls the present cleanup plan taking place "inadequate" and strongly urges that cleanup operations be stopped at once with new plans formulated.

The report was written by Dr. Annemarie Crocetti of New York City, a nationwide expert on lead contamination who visited Throop last week to see conditions and offer her help to residents.

In the report to Specter, Crocetti said "in the most urgent terms I wish to call for your immediate intervention in this situation."

Crocetti, a doctor of public health, is a former consultant to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is the co-author of a report to Congress on lead poisoning

houses. This has not been done in Throop.

Crocetti wrote in the report: "During the first month or so after their return, children must be monitored to prevent lead absorption by way of any remaining dust."

"If such a procedure is not followed, the children will experience a sharp and dangerous increase in blood lead levels."

The first phase of the cleanup

"Most distressing is the fact that the residents have not been moved out nor have the houses been sealed up . . . Worse, no plan exists for monitoring the children after the cleanup operation."

idents have not been moved out nor have the houses been sealed up. Arrangements for special house cleanups have not been made and they are not even part of the agreement. Worse, no plan exists for monitoring the children after the cleanup operation."

Instead, Crocetti said, residents have been instructed to keep the children indoors with all windows closed. Crocetti wrote: "I leave it to your imagination what it is like to have small children indoors 24 hours a day with the windows closed and no air conditioning, not to mention that dust is tracked into the house when adults return from work and shopping."

Crocetti said that taken as a whole, "the plan is entirely inadequate and ignores all experiences about safe lead abatement."

Blood tests, she said, show that children in Throop carry unacceptable levels of lead in their blood and bodies and

Report: Lead cleanup operation 'inadequate'

ORIGINAL
(Red)Scrantonian Tribune
SUNDAY, JULY 31, 1988

By Robert Curran

SCRANTONIAN TRIBUNE WRITER

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In the report to Specter, Crocetti said "in the most urgent terms I wish to call for your immediate intervention in this situation."

Crocetti, a doctor of public health, is a former consultant to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is the co-author of a report to Congress on lead poisoning in children that was written for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Some neighborhoods in Throop are highly contaminated with dangerous lead from the former Marjol Battery Co. plant. Large numbers of batteries were buried at an illegal landfill at Marjol.

Cleanup operations supervised by the EPA are taking place, but Crocetti has been critical of the cleanup methods being used and said lead particles in dust can be carried by the wind to nearby homes and other neighborhoods.

In her report to Specter, which was sent to the senator by Atty. Diane Beemer who represents a Throop citizens' group, Crocetti said "a significant characteristic of lead polluted dust is that it is difficult to remove from clothing and the inside of dwellings, particularly rugs and upholstered furniture." She added that normal laundering and cleaning are inadequate.

Crocetti said experts agree that residents must be moved out and that houses must be sealed up during the cleanup operation. She said a day should elapse before opening up the

houses. This has not been done in Throop.

Crocetti wrote in the report: "During the first month or so after their return, children must be monitored to prevent lead absorption by way of any remaining dust."

"If such a procedure is not followed, the children will experience a sharp and dangerous increase in blood lead levels."

The first phase of the cleanup

"Most distressing is the fact that the residents have not been moved out nor have the houses been sealed up . . . Worse, no plan exists for monitoring the children after the cleanup operation."

— A. Crocetti

is taking place and consists of removal of contaminated soil from the plant site. A bulldozer and truck are moving this soil to a temporary storage spot on the site.

Crocetti is concerned about airborne dust particles and the system being used by EPA supervised workers. "The soil and equipment in the area should be wetted down," and for the protection of workers, they should wear goggles and masks, she told Specter in her report.

Workers should have facilities to shower and change their clothing and shoes, and their cars must be parked out of the pathway of the dust, Crocetti said.

The doctor said these safeguards are essential because workers cause a high risk to themselves and their families through transporting of the lead.

Criticizing the working procedures, she said "the working conditions appear to lack the stringent enforcement of these conditions."

Crocetti said that "most distressing is the fact that the res-

idents have not been moved out nor have the houses been sealed up. Arrangements for special house cleanups have not been made and they are not even part of the agreement. Worse, no plan exists for monitoring the children after the cleanup operation."

Instead, Crocetti said, residents have been instructed to keep the children indoors with all windows closed. Crocetti wrote: "I leave it to your imagination what it is like to have small children indoors 24 hours a day with the windows closed and no air conditioning, not to mention that dust is tracked into the house when adults return from work and shopping."

Crocetti said that taken as a whole, "the plan is entirely inadequate and ignores all experiences about safe lead abatement."

Blood tests, she said, show that children in Throop carry unacceptable levels of lead in their blood and bodies, and "any further increases will be appalling and dangerous."

Criticizing the work plan now taking place, she said that "increases can and will occur under the present plan, and worse, the increases will occur immediately upon exposure. This inadequate plan is an urgent problem."

Personnel at the site, Crocetti said, are "completely inexperienced with the special requirements when facing lead contamination with adjoining residences. The medical community is not particularly expert in the field of lead poisoning and cannot provide the necessary leadership."

She said the "current operation should be stopped at once and new plans formulated. Your intervention is required promptly."

Crocetti recommended that a committee of experts be brought into Throop to evaluate health conditions and that the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga. be involved in the Throop situation immediately.

People who live in neighborhoods near Marjol said Saturday that they were worried because both adults and children were ill and children had high fevers.

THE MORNING TIMES
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DR. ANNEMARIE CROCETTI
no point in pretending

Expert says she's 'horrified' by lead pollution in Throop

By Jim Haggerty

TIMES STAFF WRITER

AN expert on the effects of lead on health says potentially dangerous levels of lead in the air in Throop pose a particular hazard to children. "The problem is, when you are dealing with children, you're dealing with a body which hasn't put its defenses together yet," said Dr. Annemarie Crocetti. "It's still growing. Its immune system is different. The threshold is much higher."

Dr. Crocetti is a public health physician who taught at New York Medical College and co-authored the Congressional report "The Nature and Extent of Lead Poisoning in Children in the United States." She spoke to a group of parents Wednesday night in Throop about the dangers of lead levels.

Her emphasis Wednesday afternoon was the threat to children. "The (lead) absorption rates are higher in children," she pointed out, "so that a small amount of exposure for a child is much more devastating than for an adult."

Followed by a group of parents, she said. "The Expert, Page A4"

Lead expert: Throop case is serious

(Continued from Page A-1)

Dr. Crocetti spoke at the home of Clarence and Sandie Lamanna, on Franko Street, several hundred yards from the former Marjol battery plant. Hundreds of battery casings were buried near the plant and a cleanup is under way. In the meantime, extremely high levels of lead have been found in the soil in the neighborhood.

"What you need to do is take all these children, test them to see what their blood (lead) levels are and make sure that the environment is cleaned up so they don't absorb more," Dr. Crocetti said. "And the children with high levels have to go to a physician and be treated."

The threat lead poses to children in Throop has become a topic of discussion in the local medical community, Dr. Crocetti pointed out.

"I spoke to one physician on the phone, and I think the pediatric community is very worried" about the dangers, she said. "The half-life of lead in a human is 35 years."

She added, "There is no point in pretending it is not as bad as it is."

Dr. Crocetti, a consultant to the Environmental Protection Agency, has been studying the effects of heavy metals since 1972.

"As far as we can tell, there isn't a safe level" of lead, she said. "Nobody has set a (safe) level for soil and dust."

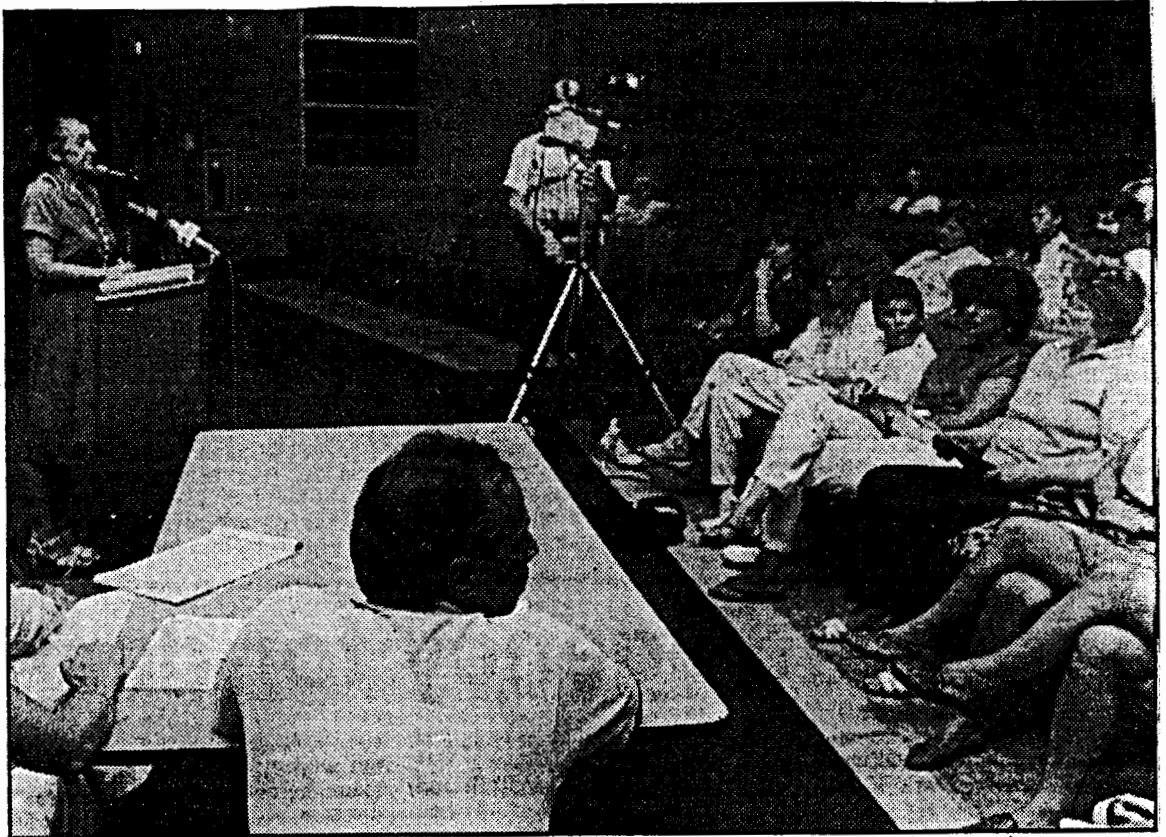
When asked what her assessment of the Throop situation was, the doctor replied, "I'm horrified."

She added quickly, however, "I'm trying to remain neutral."

Lead particles from the soil can be blown in the form of dust in up to a half mile circumference around the point of origin, she said.

"Feel the wind, it's going to blow all that (dust) somewhere else," she said. "It gets picked up and it gets re-entrenched."

The health threat affects most of



Dr. Annemarie Crocetti, one of the nation's foremost experts on lead poisoning in children, answers questions from some of the almost 150 residents of Throop who came to hear her speak on dealing with the lead problem in the borough. Crocetti's message was that nothing can be done to reverse the damage to children already caused by lead. (Staff Photo by Michael Mullen)

Preate receives criticism as expert speaks on lead

By Lynne Slack
MIDVALLEY BUREAU

THROOP — Citizens of the borough criticized the manner in which Lackawanna County District Attorney Ernest Preate Jr. handled two recent incidents in Throop which they say smacked of local government corruption in a letter

also feel it was your responsibility to investigate the possibility of an unethical conflict of interest with regard to the zone change in Throop" for the proposed Keystone Landfill extension.

Preate, who was at the meeting and received a copy of the letter, offered no comment on the matter.

Crocetti in her address briefly outlined new information on the

Crocetti said the only reason to have the test done would be for her own peace of mind.

"There's nothing you can do about it," she said.

In response to a question on at what age do children absorb more lead, Crocetti first said children are more vulnerable to damage because their immune systems are still developing.

By Robert Curran

SCHANTONIAN TRIBUNE WRITER

The criticism came from Dr. Annemarie Crocetti of New York City who said the situation in Throop was "critical" with "children at a high risk of serious damage."

She complained that Throop residents should have been temporarily re-located while the cleanup at the former Marjol Battery Co. plant is taking place, with their houses sealed to prevent contamination.

Watching 'cleanup' work, taking place off Franko Street in Throop with soil being excavated, Crocetti said "the work going on now is old-fashioned and not too well executed. "When you start stirring it (the soil), it gets blown by the wind and can get carried a half mile."

The EPA has set levels of 500 parts per million as acceptable, but Crocetti disagreed with this and said there was no safe level for lead. Many residents of Throop say
(Please turn to Page 14)

contamination in a group, calling methods such as these "disinfectants".

(Continued from Page One)

they live in fear because of extreme lead levels of 5,000, 9,000 and more, including one test that hit 19,000 parts per million.

Crocetti said she has talked to pediatricians in the Scranton region who are worried about the lead contamination in Throop.

"Children, their parents, pregnant women and fetuses are all at risk," Crocetti said.

Crocetti, a doctor of public health, is the co-author of a lengthy report, "The Nature and Extent of Lead Poisoning in Children in the United States: A Report to Congress." The report was written for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sandy Lammanna, an official of Halt Environmental Lead Pollution (HELP), a Throop citizens' group, said Crocetti came to Throop to offer her help through the efforts of Throop residents Nicholas and Mariene Muto.

The doctor was kept busy from the time she arrived at Lamanna's house in Throop Wednesday afternoon, with reporters asking her plenty of questions.

Quocetti left no doubt that she considered the Throop situation critical, and said that "in its own way, it's a Love Canal situation." She was referring to the former Love Canal housing development near Niagara Falls, N.Y., where residents had to be evacuated and many people suffered from serious health problems.

The contamination in Throop comes from the former Marjol Battery Co. plant, which operated an illegal landfill and buried tens of thousands of batteries in the ground for almost 20 years.

Crocetti said it was "sad" if children in Throop have been

The lead, she said, gets on dust and is ingested into the bloodstream. Part of the lead, Crocetti said, gets deposited along the bones and can be re-activated. "Under stress or illness or pregnancy it's returned to the bloodstream and gets to the liver and central nervous system and does damage," she said.

Hypertension, heart disease, damage to the central nervous system and deformities in children are purportedly some of the results of lead contamination.

A number of Throop families near Marjol have said they ate vegetables from their own gardens over the years, and Crocetti said that eating the vegetables was "very dangerous."

Looking out at the soil excavation work, Crocetti said the EPA's notion of procedure was all right, but that the EPA should be removing the soil systematically because "dust drifts all over the area. The EPA should be creating as little dust as possible."

Crocetti made it clear that she didn't like what she was seeing. She said it was unwise for the EPA to have soil and dust from it sitting around to be blown by the wind. Wetting the soil piles, she said, would have been helpful.

Asked if contaminated dust could blow to a wider region, perhaps to other neighborhoods and even nearby towns, she said it depended on wind patterns.

Families near Marjol, she said, shouldn't be in their homes while the soil is being removed. She said houses

should have been sealed and cleaned thoroughly after the soil work.

Angry Throop residents are asking for a grand jury probe of the state's Department of Environmental Resources (DER) in regard to the contamination, and the residents are also protesting an expansion of the nearby Keystone Landfill into Throop.

Crocetti said a landfill and incinerator can result in serious problems, and that ashes could be "incredibly dangerous."

An incinerator, she said, shouldn't be near a residential area unless there are absolute assurances that the technology is adequate. Throop residents are unhappy about plans for an incinerator in nearby Dunmore.

Crocetti on Wednesday night spoke to Throop residents at the Mid-Valley Secondary Center and warned them of the dangers of lead pollution.

Mary Ann Richardson, whose house is located near the Marjoi plant, made telephone calls Wednesday to Gov. Robert Casey's office and spoke to a Casey aide.

Richardson said she told the governor's office that "there's a lot of stress in Throop and the people here are very concerned."

Cleanup workers were wearing face masks and protective gear as they worked on the soil in Throop neighborhoods, but Richardson said residents had nothing to protect them.

Richardson said an aide to Casey told her the governor was "deeply concerned" and that his staff was looking into relocation for some residents.

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1983

25 cents

Marjol cleanup faulted

By Robert Corran
SACRAMENTO TRIBUNE WRITER

THROOP - A national expert on lead contamination who was a consultant for the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) charged Wednesday that the EPA's cleanup procedures in Throop were being conducted improperly and in "an old-fashioned" manner.

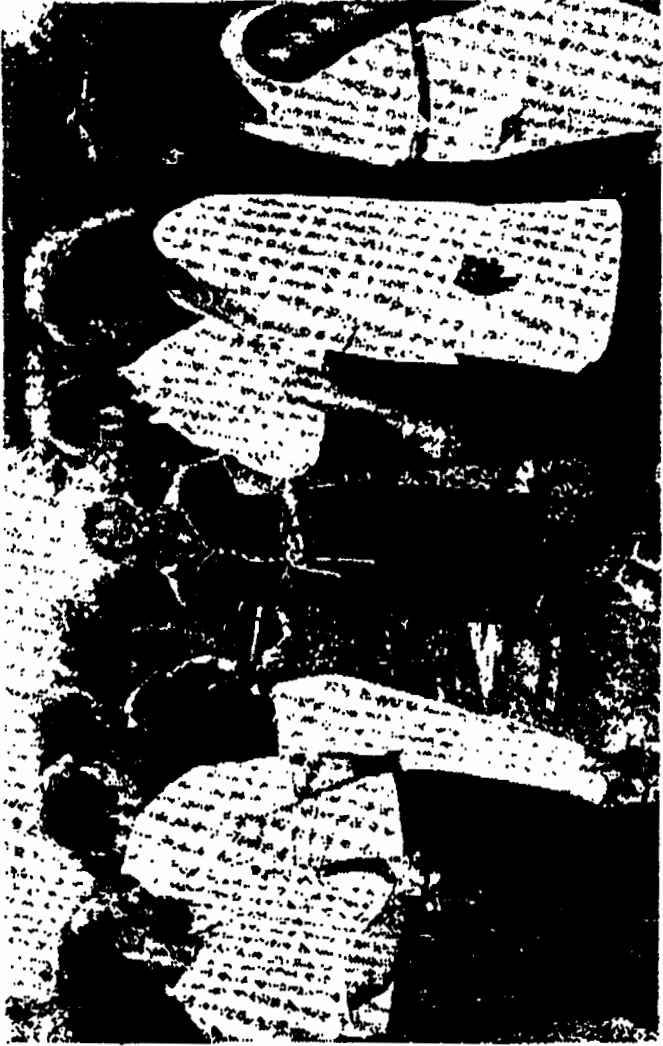
The criticism came from Dr. Annamaria Crocetti of New York City who said the situation in Throop was "critical" with "children at a high risk of serious damage."

She complained that Throop residents should have been temporarily re-located while the cleanup at the former Marjol Battery Co. plant is taking place, with their houses sealed to prevent contamination.

Watching cleanup work taking place off Franko Street in Throop, with soil being excavated, Crocetti said "the work going on now is old-fashioned and not too well executed."

"When you start stirring it (the soil), it gets blown by the wind and can get carried a half mile."

The EPA has set levels of 300 parts per million as acceptable, but Crocetti disagreed with this and said there was no safe level for lead. Many residents of Throop say (Please turn to Page 14)



LEAD WARNINGS - Dr. Annamaria Crocetti, center, Wednesday talks about the dangers of lead in Throop, as soil excavation takes place behind her. From left to right are Nicholas Mule, Geri Sherwood, Mary Ann Richardson, Crocetti, Andrew Bauman, Atty. Diane Boerner and Sandy Lamasana.

ORIGINAL
(Red)

Scrantonian Tribune, Thursday, July 28, 1988

ORIGINAL
(Red)

GETTING THE LEAD OUT - A former EPA consultant has criticized the clean-up of lead contamination in Throop, calling methods such as these "old-fashioned."

Marjol cleanup criticized

(Continued from Page One)

they live in fear because of extreme lead levels of 8,000, 9,000 and more, including one test that hit 19,000 parts per million.

Crocetti said she has talked to pediatricians in the Scranton region who are worried about the lead contamination in Throop.

"Children, their parents, pregnant women and fetuses are all at risk," Crocetti said.

Crocetti, a doctor of public health, is the co-author of a lengthy report, "The Nature and Extent of Lead Poisoning in Children in the United States: A Report to Congress." The report was written for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sandy Lamanna, an official of the National Environmental Lead Reduction (NELR), a Throop citizens' group, said Crocetti came to Throop to offer her help through the efforts of Throop residents Nicholas and Marlene Muta.

The doctor was kept busy from the time she arrived at Lamanna's house in Throop Wednesday afternoon, with reporters asking her plenty of questions.

Crocetti left no doubt that she considered the Throop situation critical, and said that "in its own way, it's a Love Canal situation." She was referring to the former Love Canal housing development near Niagara Falls, N.Y., where residents had to be evacuated and many people suffered from serious health problems.

The contamination in Throop comes from the former Marjol Battery Co. plant, which operated as illegal landfill and buried tons of thousands of batteries in the ground for almost 20 years.

Crocetti said it was "sad" if children in Throop have been living in lead-contaminated neighborhoods for the past 10 years.

The lead, she said, gets on dust and is ingested into the bloodstream. Part of the lead, Crocetti said, gets deposited along the bones and can be re-solubilized. "Under stress or illness or pregnancy it's returned to the bloodstream and gets to the liver and central nervous system and does damage," she said.

Hypertension, heart disease, damage to the central nervous system and deformities in children are purportedly some of the results of lead contamination.

A number of Throop families near Marjol have said they ate vegetables from their own gardens over the years, and Crocetti said that eating the vegetables was "very dangerous."

Looking out at the soil excavation work, Crocetti said the EPA's notion of procedure was all right, but that the EPA should be removing the soil systematically because "dust drifts all over the area. The EPA should be creating as little dust as possible."

Crocetti made it clear that she didn't like what she was seeing. She said it was unwise for the EPA to have soil and dust from it sitting around to be blown by the wind. Wetting the soil piles, she said, would have been helpful.

Asked if contaminated dust could blow to a wider region, perhaps in other neighborhoods and even nearby towns, she said it depended on wind patterns.

Families near Marjol, she said, shouldn't be in their homes while the soil is being removed. She said houses

should have been sealed and cleaned thoroughly after the soil work.

Angry Throop residents are asking for a grand jury probe of the state's Department of Environmental Resources (DER) in regard to the contamination, and the residents are also protesting an expansion of the nearby Keystone Landfill into Throop.

Crocetti said a landfill and incinerator can result in serious problems, and that ashes could be "incredibly dangerous."

As an incinerator, she said, shouldn't be near a residential area unless there are absolute assurances that the technology is adequate. Throop residents are unhappy about plans for an incinerator nearby Duane.

Crocetti on Wednesday night spoke to Throop residents at the Mid-Valley Secondary Center and warned them of the dangers of lead pollution.

Mary Ann Richardson, whose house is located near the Marjol plant, made telephone calls Wednesday to Gov. Robert Casey's office and spoke to a Casey aide.

Richardson said she told the governor's office that "there's a lot of stress in Throop and the people here are very concerned."

Cleanup workers were wearing face masks and protective gear as they worked on the soil in Throop neighborhoods, but Richardson said residents had nothing to protect them.

Richardson said an aide to Casey told her the governor was "deeply concerned" and that his staff was looking into relocation for some residents.

Marjol cleanup faulted

By Robert Curran

SCRANTONIAN TRIBUNE WRITER

THROOP — A national expert on lead contamination who was a consultant for the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) charged Wednesday that the EPA's cleanup procedures in Throop were being conducted improperly and in "an old-fashioned" manner.

The criticism came from Dr. Annemarie Crocetti of New York City who said the situation in Throop was "critical" with "children at a high risk of serious damage."

She complained that Throop residents should have been temporarily re-located while the cleanup at the former Marjol Battery Co. plant is taking place, with their houses sealed to prevent contamination.

Watching cleanup work taking place off Franko Street in Throop, with soil being excavated, Crocetti said "the work going on now is old-fashioned and not too well executed."

"When you start stirring it (the soil), it gets blown by the wind and can get carried a half mile."

The EPA has set levels of 500 parts per million as acceptable, but Crocetti disagreed with this and said there was no safe level for lead. Many residents of Throop say (Please turn to Page 14)



Scrantonian Tribune — JERRY PIFER

LEAD WARNINGS — Dr. Annemarie Crocetti, center, Wednesday talks about the dangers of lead in Throop, as soil excavation takes place behind her. From left to right are Nicholas Muto, Geri Sherwood, Mary Ann Richardson, Crocetti, Andrew Bauman, Atty. Diane Beemer and Sandy Lamanna.

Marjol cleanup criticized

(Continued from Page One)

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"Children, their parents, pregnant women and fetuses are all at risk," Crocetti said.

Crocetti, a doctor of public health, is the co-author of a lengthy report, "The Nature and Extent of Lead Poisoning in Children in the United States: A Report to Congress." The report was written for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sandy Lamanna, an official of Halt Environmental Lead Pollution (HELP), a Throop citizens' group, said Crocetti came to Throop to offer her help through the efforts of Throop residents Nicholas and Marlene Muto.

The doctor was kept busy from the time she arrived at Lamanna's house in Throop Wednesday afternoon, with reporters asking her plenty of questions.

Crocetti left no doubt that she considered the Throop situation critical, and said that "in its own way, it's a Love Canal situation." She was referring to the former Love Canal housing development near Niagara Falls, N.Y., where residents had to be evacuated and many people suffered from serious health problems.

The contamination in Throop comes from the former Marjol Battery Co. plant, which operated an illegal landfill and buried tens of thousands of batteries in the ground for almost 20 years.

Crocetti said it was "sad" if children in Throop have been living in lead-contaminated neighborhoods for the past 10 years.

The lead, she said, gets on dust and is ingested into the bloodstream. Part of the lead, Crocetti said, gets deposited along the bones and can be re-activated. "Under stress or illness or pregnancy it's returned to the bloodstream and gets to the liver and central nervous system and does damage," she said.

Hypertension, heart disease, damage to the central nervous system and deformities in children are purportedly some of the results of lead contamination.

A number of Throop families near Marjol have said they ate vegetables from their own gardens over the years, and Crocetti said that eating the vegetables was "very dangerous."

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An incinerator, she said, shouldn't be near a residential area unless there are absolute assurances that the technology is adequate. Throop residents are unhappy about plans for an incinerator in nearby Dunmore.

Crocetti on Wednesday night spoke to Throop residents at the Mid-Valley Secondary Center and warned them of the dangers of lead pollution.

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JULY 26 88

THE MORNING TIMES
SCRANTON, PA
AM-24,000

Leading expert on lead to address Throop issue

THROOP — Dr. Ann Marie Crocetti, one of the nation's leading experts on lead, will speak at an open meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Mid-Valley Secondary Center.

Nick Muto, a member of Halt Environmental Lead Pollution (HELP), said the group has arranged to have Crocetti speak on several areas of concern.

First, he said Crocetti will tell parents how to interpret the results of the blood lead level tests given the week of July 12 to area children.

"What we want to do is give people a framework," he said.

Muto said some parents have already received results of the tests given by the Kirby Memorial Health Center and paid for by Gould Battery, owner of the Marjol Battery site.

Results were expected to have been sent first to those parents whose children had high levels of lead, but all parents whose children took the test will receive results.

Muto said Crocetti will also explain further testing methods, similar to an X-ray, that will detect lead levels in bone.

A prominent local physician has reportedly discovered through examinations of local children that in some cases the lead poisoning has penetrated the bone marrow. That may depress the lead levels found in the blood of children who were tested.

The physician has also reportedly found that the lead poisoning has spread to children in other boroughs, and that the state Department of Health has been aware of the seriousness of the situation for some time.

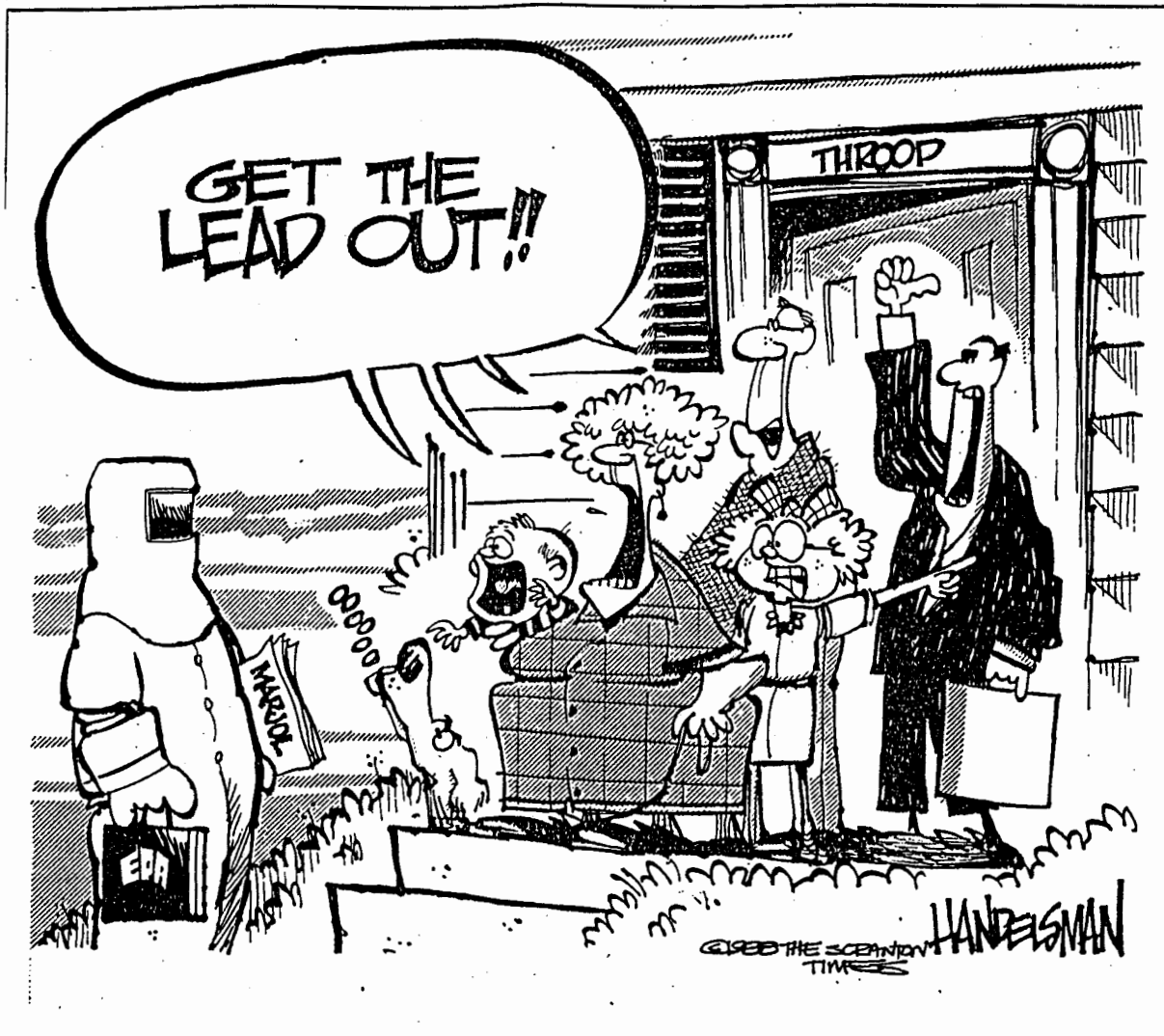
Sources who released the information to *The Times* declined to identify the physician until he calls an expected press conference later this week to release his findings.

Finally, Muto said Crocetti will address health concerns of lead poisoning, and possible dangers of the cleanup of residential soil, which has begun this week.

Crocetti is the co-author of a report prepared for Congress on the effects of various lead levels on children, has worked as an Environmental Protection Agency consultant, and was involved in developing the first lead level standards.

Her recent congressional report indicates a need to lower accepted blood levels in children from 25 to at least 20 micrograms per deciliter.

Lead poisoning has been associated with a host of problems ranging from hyperactivity and learning disabilities at low levels to kidney disorders and liver problems at high levels.





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III

841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

AUG 5 1988

Annemarie F. Crocetti
31 Union Square West
Apartment 11-A
New York, New York 10003

Dear Ms. Crocetti:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Region III Office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to voice a strong objection to the conclusions you reached in your July 29, 1988, report concerning the Marjol Battery Site (Site) in Throop, and to the manner in which you made your findings public.

Because EPA shares the citizens' concerns about the high levels of lead at Throop, Pennsylvania, we have entered into an agreement with the Site Owner, Gould, Inc., to expedite an emergency removal at the Site. That agreement is legally enforceable. In addition to working with Gould, Inc., we are also closely coordinating our efforts with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (PA DER) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) to assure the protection of the health of the residents of the area and the Site workers. We believe that this level of coordination is a responsible approach to the problem. The goals of this phase of the project are the following:

1. the removal of significant lead contamination from offsite areas, particularly from residential properties;
2. the securing of the Site against inadvertent or unauthorized entry and resultant contact with onsite contamination;
3. the stabilization of the Site to control offsite migration of lead contamination; and
4. the conducting of a complete study of the extent, depth and concentration of contamination both on and off the Site.

Although you have yet to communicate your concerns about the Site to me or any of my staff, we have read your report and the news releases of your recent visit to the area. I cannot understand how as a scientist, you can criticize our work without attempting to understand our goals or seeking out our readily available technical information. I would not permit this kind of workmanship from a member of my staff. I have, therefore, prepared a brief summary of some points you raised during your speech which we consider to be among the most flagrantly inaccurate. I hope that you will reflect upon these and respond to me with any data you have which supports your position.

1. When you were asked why EPA would do such a poor job, you responded that "... Throop is a small town where EPA can get away with it so they can run rough shod over you ..."

My response to you is that my staff has been in Throop since April, dealing with this critical problem. I personally visited the Site on July 13, and met with area residents for a lengthy discussion of our efforts. An important part of this work is communicating our plans and accomplishments to the area residents so they understand the work being performed and our level of involvement. Toward this end, we have met with the residents in their homes; at public meetings; we have met with their elected and community leaders both in Philadelphia and Throop; and we are committed to continue these meetings until the job is done. Were you at any of these meetings? Will you leave Manhattan for any of the many future meetings?

2. You have charged that EPA is not protecting the health of Site workers.

My response to you is that under the direct supervision of an extremely competent and experienced senior EPA Enforcement Officer, Bill Steuteville, Gould has hired fully trained professional consultants and contractors who are knowledgeable of OSHA requirements. This is of paramount importance for work associated with hazardous waste cleanups, and we do it as a matter of course. Further, the Site is monitored daily by two site safety specialists to assure adherence to worker protection regulations. Personal and work area air monitoring has been conducted since work began in April. Analysis of air data has shown no significant release of contaminants due to work in progress. The required levels of protection for workers are based upon those results; however, any worker wishing more stringent levels of personal protection will find additional equipment readily available to them in the decontamination trailer. Are you familiar with OSHA rules? Did you review the release data? Did your brief visit include discussions with any of our workers?

3. You have charged that at the time of your visit, the excavated soils were not wet enough and should therefore be sprayed with water.

My response to you is that at the time of your visit and for ten days prior to that time, fire hoses were operational to effect wetting of the work area. You might also take comfort in the fact that in addition to our efforts, 3.8 inches of rain fell on the area on the six days prior to your visit. In fact, nearly one inch fell on July 26, one day before you came. Did you not see the hoses? Did you touch or measure a reasonable number of soil samples? Did you see dust blowing anywhere?

4. When asked where the excavated soils were being placed, you replied, "it was being dumped out behind." In your report you said ". . . to a temporary storage spot on the location."

My reply to you is that excavated soils are being moved to a designed interim storage facility which is lined with asphalt and covered with an impermeable tarp. This storage facility was especially designed and constructed on the site for the safe and temporary storage of these soils. Engineering specifications are readily available in the Site Work Plan located at the public repository in Throop. Did you review the plan? Did you see the facility? Do you recommend some other location, design or techniques? Does this practice vary from what is done elsewhere?

5. In your letter to Senator Specter, you characterized the cleanup actions as "a public health crisis of major proportions and "inadequate". In addition, you called for the immediate halt to this work.

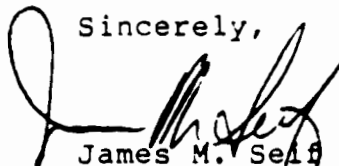
Your reasoning behind these open-ended charges is utterly unsubstantiated. I have enclosed for your information air monitoring results for dust, which have been routinely taken since the project began. You will be particularly interested in the results which took place during your visit. You will see that on July 27, both of the area air filter results show lead concentrations of $<0.001 \text{ mg/m}^3$. These were taken during the soil excavations which took place during your visit. These levels are below the detectable level. This office does not have ambient air lead levels for New York City on that day, but I venture to guess that had you been in Manhattan you would have received a higher level of exposure to lead.

As for halting the work, I fail to see how that will address the sense of emergency you feel. Do you recommend that no work be done?

I hope that upon reflection of these facts, you will provide for me--I am available at your convenience and always have been--and the people of Throop, documents and facts which support your statements. Those allegations which cannot be substantiated, I trust will be retracted to help relieve the stress your remarks have caused the site workers and the citizens of Throop. In the meanwhile we will continue to work with experts on site and with our state colleagues to remediate this Site. It will be slower than many people (including me) would like, but our objective is safety, permanence, and conformity to law. It is not speed, and not hit and run publicity. We are in Throop for the long term. Please join us in this effort.

EPA will be most pleased to provide any additional information to you. We would like to work with you, to achieve our mutual goal of protecting public health and the environment at the Marjol Site.

Sincerely,



James M. Seif
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Senator Specter
Arthur A. Davis
N. Mark Richards